

The Truhlsen-Marmor Museum of the Eye is looking for enthusiastic volunteers
for the

Museum Docent Corps

Docent Corps Mission Statement

The Museum of the Eye Docent Corps is a community of individuals who are passionate about museums and are interested in gaining and sharing knowledge about the science of vision and the history of medicine. The Docent Corps strives to make the museum a unique and safe space for people of all backgrounds to engage and learn.

Docent Role Definitions & Requirements

Role Summary

Museum docents conduct guided tours of the Museum for the general public and host hands-on demonstrations in the museum galleries. Topics for tours and demonstrations range from general explanations of history and anatomy to more specific topics, like flight medicine or the history of eyeglasses, depending upon docent interest. Docents will also work closely with the Museum Specialist to operate and maintain the museum gallery space during public hours.

Desired Qualifications

A volunteer docent should be interested in the museum's subject matter and be comfortable with speaking in front of individual visitors and small groups. A preexisting interest or background in ophthalmology, history or science is helpful, although not required. Docents should be warm, engaging, and professional.

Schedule Requirements

Docents work 4-hour shifts with a 20-minute break. During this shift, a docent will be expected to lead at least one guided tour and/or facilitate one hour-long hands-on demonstration. Docents must be able to commit to be reliably available two shifts a month or more to both stay current with their training and reliably support the museum.

Human Resources Requirements

The docent program is open to all people over the age of 15. Any potential docents between the ages of 15 and 18 will need permission from a parent or guardian.

The museum's parent organization, the American Academy of the Ophthalmology (AAO), requires a background check for all volunteers and docents. For docents under the age of 18, AAO requires a reference check.

AAO also requires that all staff and volunteers, including docents, show proof of vaccination against COVID-19. Proof of vaccination is defined as a one- or two-shot first series and a booster shot, if eligible.

Application Process

Prospective docents should submit a short statement of interest in the docent program (one or two paragraphs) to the Museum Specialist either through [VolunteerMatch.com](https://www.volunteermatch.com) or at museum@ao.org. The Museum Specialist will review all submissions on an ongoing basis and select candidates for phone/video interviews. During the interview, prospective docents will be asked to present a short, 1–3-minute presentation about a topic of their choice. Selected candidates will be invited to tour the museum and then begin training.